



When reading *A Letter to My White Friends and Colleagues*, try these questions as a place to start conversations with friends, colleagues or book clubs around the topic of racial wealth disparity.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When a young White woman asked Malcolm X, “What can I do to help?” following a college tour speech in 1960, he replied, “Nothing.” Why do you think this was his initial response?
2. In what ways has the U.S. government supported the creation of the Black/White wealth gap? What issues has the wealth gap caused? How can White people help close that gap in America?
3. The author describes himself as a race man. What is a race man/ woman? Is it possible for a White person to be a race man/woman?
4. What role does philanthropy play in closing the Black/White wealth gap? What were the three main contributions to the Black/White wealth gap?
5. How has the government explicitly discriminated against Blacks historically? What industries benefitted from slavery?
6. Originally, the primary mission of HBCUs was to teach and prepare formerly enslaved and free Black people the skills for gainful employment. What impact would the closing of HBCUs have on the Black community today?
7. What have been the challenges faced by Black banks? Why have Black banks not been as successful as White immigrant banks, like Bank of Italy? What is the importance of Black banks today?
8. Why are Black-owned businesses important to the Black community? What are the primary challenges to the growth of Black-owned business?
9. Do you agree that White people have a responsibility to bank with Black banks as a way to support the Black community? Please explain why.
10. Should reparations go to the descendants of people enslaved? Why or why not?
11. How can reparations help to close the Black/White wealth gap? Do reparations work?